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## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

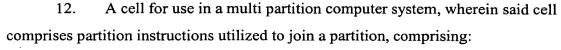
- 1. A method for synchronizing a portion of cells of a configured set of cells to form a partition, comprising the steps of:
  - (a) reaching a first rendezvous state;
  - (b) delaying to allow other cells of said portion to reach said initial
- 5 rendezvous state; and
  - (c) transitioning to a second rendezvous state;
    wherein cells of said portion independently execute steps (a) through (c) in parallel.
  - 2. The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) delays until the earlier of: (i) a predetermined time; (ii) another cell of the portion reaches the second rendezvous state; and (iii) all cells of said configured set of cells reach the first rendezvous state.
    - 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
  - (d) constructing a local rendezvous set comprising detected cells of the portion that have reached the second rendezvous state; and
  - (e) writing said local rendezvous set to a visible location; wherein cells of said portion that have reached said second rendezvous state independently execute steps (d) through (e) in parallel.
  - 4. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of:

    constructing a global rendezvous set from constructed local rendezvous sets,
    wherein the global rendezvous set represents a logical intersection of said constructed local
    rendezvous sets.
    - 5. The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of: determining a core cell from said global rendezvous set.

- 6. The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of:

  determining compatible cells of said global rendezvous set as an alive set,
  wherein said step of determining compatible cells is performed by said core cell.
- 7. The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of: programming partition gating controllers to limit adverse transactions associated with a partition to said alive set.
  - 8. The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of: establishing an operating system on said partition.
- 9. The method of claim 1 wherein complex information is utilized to identify other cells of the configured set.
- 10. The method of claim 9 wherein said complex information is obtained from a service processor.
- 11. The method of claim 9 wherein said complex information is retrieved from a cache.

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processor to execute said partition instructions;

firmware device to store said partition instructions;

code to set a register reflecting a first rendezvous state;

code to delay partition formation operations after setting said register to reflect said first rendezvous state; and

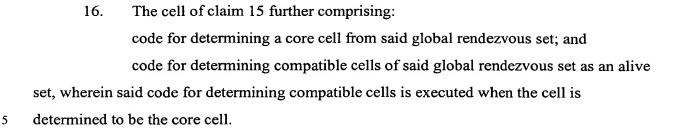
code to transition to a second rendezvous state after delaying partition formation operations.

- 13. The cell of claim 12 wherein said partition instructions are executed in parallel in association with partition instructions executed by other cells of a configured set.
- 14. The cell of claim 13 further comprising:

  code for constructing a local rendezvous set comprising detected cells of the
  configured set that have reached the second rendezvous state; and

  code for writing said local rendezvous set to a visible location.
- 15. The cell of claim 14 further comprising:

  code for retrieving local rendezvous sets generated by other cells of said
  configured set; and
- code for constructing a global rendezvous set from constructed local rendezvous sets, wherein the global rendezvous set represents a logical intersection of constructed local rendezvous sets.



- 17. The cell of claim 16 further comprising:

  code for programming at least one partition gating controller to limit adverse transactions associated with a partition to said alive set.
- 18. The cell of claim 13 wherein complex information is utilized to identify other cells of the configured set.
- 19. The cell of claim 18 wherein said complex information is retrieved from a cache.
- 20. The cell of claim 12 wherein said code for delaying partition formation operations delays until the earliest of: (i) a predetermined time; (ii) another cell of the configured set of cell reaches the second rendezvous state; and (iii) all cells of said configured set of cells reach the initial rendezvous state.